The aspects of control, access, duration of storage and use are less clear. It is necessary to develop a body of evidence and practice experience, which may guide rational and ethical collaboration between institutions. As Muthuswamy[13] has suggested, collaboration between two institutions should ensure that the benefits of partnership go beyond people, and also beyond communities. We suggest that in multicountry research projects entailing the collection of human specimens, the following should be discussed and resolved before a study is conducted:

- Access and control of the specimens
- Which laboratory and other tests should be carried out locally and which ones abroad
- Future use of the specimens for research or at least a mechanism for discussion and resolution should the need arise
- Agreement on the distribution of benefits should the research result in such gains

We suggest that not considering these points is irresponsible and may also be construed as unethical.

Authors' affiliations
A S Muula, J M Mfutso-Bengo, Department of Community Health, University of Malawi, College of Medicine, Blantyre, Malawi
J M Mfutso-Bengo, Malawi Bioethics Research Unit (MABIRU), Malawi

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